

Associated Press, March 17, 2009

March 17, 2009 (CHICAGO) -- Congressman Mark Kirk says climate change and the growing demand for water could dramatically lower the level of the Great Lakes.

Kirk was at the Shedd Aquarium with scientists and local environmental leaders on Monday.

A new report by Army Corps Of Engineers shows Lake Michigan is a foot below its long-term average water level.

The National Oceanic And Atmospheric Administration also found ice cover declined 30-percent from 1972 to 2008.

"If the great lakes no longer have very much ice coverage that means we'll have evaporation all year long we need further studies to make sure we understand the affect of all year long evaporation on the lakes," said Rep. Mark Kirk, (R) Illinois.

Kirk wants to attach an amendment to a bill to provide long term outlooks on the effect of climate change for the Great Lakes.